

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

- 1 1. (Original) A method for representing a business process within a computing system,  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3       defining the business process using a state-machine based representation where  
4 transitions of the state machine represent roles and actions, and states of the state machine  
5 represent stages in the business process where the commerce system is waiting for an  
6 event to occur;  
7       identifying the actions that participants with particular roles can perform at  
8 particular stages of the business process by corresponding state in the state machine and  
9 out-going transitions from that state.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising altering the business process by  
2 changing its state-machine based representation.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein attributes of a state-machine based  
2 representation are tailored to a particular user.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the state-machine based representation  
2 includes means for validating that actions taken by a user are allowed by the state  
3 machine description so as to ensure that the user has a role that can perform the requested  
4 action at that state.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the business processes and their  
2 state-machine based representations can be synchronized with other business processes by  
3 passing messages between state machines.

1 6. (Original) A method for executing a business process represented as a state machine  
2 running on a computing system, where transitions of the state machine represent roles of  
3 participants in the business process and actions that can be taken as part of the business  
4 process, and states of the state machine represent stages in the business process where the  
5 business process is waiting for an event to occur, the method comprising:  
6 receiving from a user a command representing a desired action to be performed as  
7 part of the business process;  
8 checking the role of the user within the business process and a context in which  
9 the command occurs;  
10 if the command is allowable by a user with the role within the context, executing  
11 the command.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of displaying to users a  
2 list of possible commands to be issued by the user as part of the business process.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, where the displayed commands are selected for  
2 display based on the user's role within the business process, the context of the business  
3 process, and the state of the business process.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein different versions of a business process  
2 represented as different state machines share software for actions common in the different  
3 state machines, and share user interfaces by generating a means of user interaction based  
4 on the state machine descriptions.

1 10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, where the execution of different  
2 instances of a particular business process ~~are~~ is handled by storing a current state for each  
3 instance of the business process.

1 11. (Original) A system for executing a business process represented as a state machine  
2 running on a computing system, where transitions of the state machine represent roles of  
3 participants in the business process and actions that can be taken as part of the business  
4 process, and states of the state machine represent stages in the business process where the  
5 business process is waiting for an event to occur, the system comprising:

6 means for receiving from a user a command representing a desired action to be  
7 performed as part of the business process;

8 means for checking the role of the user within the business process and a context  
9 in which the command occurs;

10 means for, if the command is allowable by a user with the role within the context,  
11 executing the command.

1 12. (Original) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for  
2 representing a business process within a computing system, the computer program  
3 product comprising:

4 first instructions for defining the business process using a state-machine based  
5 representation where transitions of the state machine represent roles and actions, and  
6 states of the state machine represent stages in the business process where the commerce  
7 system is waiting for an event to occur;

8 second instructions for identifying the actions that participants with particular  
9 roles can perform at particular stages of the business process by corresponding state in the  
10 state machine and out-going transitions from that state.

1     13. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium  
2     for executing a business process within a computing system, said business process being  
3     represented as a state machine running on said computing system, the computer program  
4     product comprising:  
5         first instructions for receiving from a user a command representing a desired  
6     action to be performed as part of the business process;  
7         second instructions for checking the role of the user within the business process  
8     and a context in which the command occurs;  
9         third instructions for, if the command is allowable by a user with the role within  
10    the context, executing the command.